

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 /082 W

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R 100820Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T MUSCAT 857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MU, IR

SUBJECT: MORE ON DHOFAR ENCOUNTER OF DECEMBER 5

REF: MUSCAT 847

1. SAF COMMANDER GEN. CREASEY PERSONALLY GAVE US THIS ACCOUNT OF DEC. 5 ACTION THAT COST 10 IRANIAN KIA.

2. COMPANY OF 100 IRANIAN TROOPS CAME UNDER FIRE FROM ABOUT 20 ENEMY WHILE ADVANCING RATHER CLOSELY BUNCHED UP. LOCATION WAS ABOUT 20 KM SOUTH OF MANSTON JUST INTO TREE-LINE MARKING NORTHERN EDGE OF JABAL TERRAIN. IT WAS UNIT'S FIRST EXPERIENCE UNDER FIRE. THEY REACTED BY OVER-CONCENTRATION ON PREPARING STATIC POSITIONS AND FAILED TO RETURN FIRE SUFFICIENTLY OR

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KEEP PROPER TABS ON ENEMY POSITION AND MOBILITY. ABOUT 15

OF THE ENEMY ADVANCED CLOSE ENOUGH TO WIPE OUT TEN IRANIANS IN TWO OR THREE SEPARATE POSITIONS AND CAPTURE ONE MAN WITHOUT LOSS TO THEMSELVES. SAF ARMORED PATROL UNIT HAD PARTIAL VIEW OF ACTION AND PROVIDED SOME FIRE SUPPORT BUT WAS UNABLE CIEVENT DISASTER. IRANIAN UNIT WITHDREW TO LICK ITS WOUNDS AND AS OF DEC. 8 HAD NOT RECOMMENCED OPERATIONS.

3. CREASEY CHALKED THIS UP AS VERY UNFORTUNATE BEGINNING FOR IRANIAN BRIGADE BUT HOPES IT WILL LEARN QUICKLY FROM THE EXPERIENCE. HE HOPES, AND EXPECTS, IT WILL RESUME ITS OPERATIONS QUICKLY THOUGH HE BELIEVES ENCOUNTER HAS SHAKEN THE IRANIANS. HE THINKS DISASTER NEVER WOULD HAVE OCCURRED WITH BATTLE-TESTED TROOPS. ASKED ABOUT REACTION IN IRAN, CREASEY SAID SHAH AND GEN. AZHARI PROBABLY ARE RECEIVING REPORTS BLAMING DISASTER ON VARIETY OF ELEMENTS RANGING FROM UNFAVORABLE TERRAIN, WEATHER, GEN. CREASEY HIMSELF AND STRENGTH OF ENEMY, BUT HE THINKS SHAH FOR ONE WILL SEE THROUGH TO THE ESSENTIAL TRUTH OF IRANIAN BATTLE INEXPERIENCE.

4. FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, OMANGOV PUT OUT "MILITARY COMMUNIQUE" DEC. 7 AS FOLLOWS (EMBASSY UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION). IT WAS PREPARED, SAID CREASEY, BY SULTAN QABOOS AND FONMIN ZAWAWI. QUOTE OUR FORCES CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN AREA OF THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF THE SULTANATE; UNITS OF THE BROTHERLY IRANIAN FORCES PRESENT IN THE SULTANATE PARTICIPATED IN THOSE OPERATIONS AIMED AT CLEANSING THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS OF THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST GANGS INVADING FROM THE SOUTH. IN THEIR OPERATIONS, OUR FORCES DID NOT MEET ANY RESISTANCE EXCEPT FOR THAT ENCOUNTERED BY ONE OF THE IRANIAN UNITS STATIONED AT MAWAQQ'A (SHIYYUN WAHAZZAR) IN AN ATTACK FROM KBEEN MA'AD WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF NINE IRANIAN SOLDIERS AND THE CAPTURE OF ONE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME OUR FORCES HAVE MET THIS KIND OF RESISTANCE IN WHICH BELEAGURED SOLDIERS LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES DEFENDING THE RIGHT AND THE TRIUMPH OF PEACE AGAINST THE HERETICAL COMMUNISTS. OUR FORCES HAD BEGUN THEIR OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN AREA OF THE SOUTHERN SECTOR ON DEC. 2 AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT THEY WOULD FACE THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST GANGS IN THAT AREA, FORCES WHICH WERE INFILTRATING OUR SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES. FURTHERMORE, SINCE DEC. 2, TWELVE OF THE MISGUIDED ENEMY

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HAVE SURRENDERED TO OUR FORCES, SEEKING AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN RANKS WITH THE FORCES OF RIGHT ON THE PATH OF LIGHT AFTER THE COMMUNIST GANGS HAD TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO ENLIST THEIR BROTHERS AND PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGES AND OTHER POPULATION CENTERS. VICTORY TO OUR ARMED FORCES AND DEATH AND SACRIFICE TO THE TRAITOROUS COMMUNISTS, THE ENEMY OF GOD AND COUNTRY. UNQTE.

5. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS IS FIRST OMANGOV STATEMENT
REGARDING IRANIAN TROOPS IN COUNTRY SINCE OCT. 10. WHETHER
CLEARED THIS TIME WITH IRANIANS, WE DO NOT KNOW.
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